GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6293
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
AVALANCHES AND HEAVY SNOWFALL IN J & K AND UTTARANCHAL
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal are affected by the recent avalanches and heavy snowfall;

(b) the steps taken to provide rescue and relief operation in those areas;

(c) whether Air Force has been pressed into service; and

(d) if so, the other steps being taken to undertake adequate rescue and relief operation in those inaccessible areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (d): The responsibility for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural disasters lies with the concerned State Government. Funds for this purpose are available with the State Government in the State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Government of India contributes 75%. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary, as per the norms laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission. Financial assistance, over and above the provision of CRF, is also provided to the State Governments in the wake of a calamity of severe nature from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure. No report of any recent severe disaster of avalanches and heavy snowfall has been received from the States of J&K and Uttranchal.However, the Air Force was pressed into service and provided free airlift to 1670 stranded passengers in J&K during the months of February to April, 2003.